

SHIRE OF CAMPASPE MEDIA RELEASE



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ENJOY AFTERNOON TEA & CALL FOR LAW REFORM!

The Campaspe Regional Library Service is backing a campaign for copyright law reform by hosting *Cooking for Copyright* afternoon tea events at its Echuca and Tongala branches on Friday, 31 July.

The campaign – being run by the Australian Library and Information Association’s Freedom of Access to Information and Resources (FAIR) group – is designed to raise awareness about the problems caused by perpetual copyright in unpublished works.

In Australia, copyright in published works lasts 70 years after the death of the creator, but for unpublished works, copyright lasts forever. This means old diaries, letters and even recipes are locked away.

Campaspe Library Services Manager, Jenny Mustey, said the service supported FAIR’s call for changes to the law.

“We’d like the same copyright terms for unpublished works as for published works. Then library services like us, museums and historical societies could put these treasures on the web for family historians, researchers and everyone else who is fascinated by our social history,” Ms Mustey said.

“We believe this proposal provides a simple way to improve the current copyright law, with a positive impact for both the creative industries and the cultural institutions, like libraries,” she added.

FAIR has delved into library and museum collections across Australia and posted more than 20 handwritten recipes to its website – effectively contravening the current copyright law. It’s asking Australians to cook one of these recipes – or choose an old favourite – and post a photo to Facebook or tweet with the #cookingforcopyright hashtag – on Cooking for Copyright Day on 31 July.

“We want people to use a classic Aussie recipes for lamingtons, pavlovas, canteen biscuits and soldier cake tins to drive the copyright reform agenda. Make something based on an unpublished source and bring it and the recipe into either the Echuca or Tongala branch at 2.30pm on Friday, 31 July and enjoy a yummy afternoon tea!”

Further information

Campaspe Library Services Manager, Jenny Mustey, 1300 666 535

email s.ennis@campaspe.vic.gov.au